

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6660

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4154

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (ALBERT, CARL)

SUB: CODEL ALBERT VISIT TO IRAN - APRIL 21-23

BEGIN SUMMARY: SPEAKER ALBERT RECEIVED RED CARPET TREATMENT FROM HIS HOST, MAJLES SPEAKER RIAZI, WHO URGED CLOSER U.S./IRANIAN LEGISLATIVE LINKS. CODEL ALSO MET WITH PRIME MINISTER AND NIOC CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR EGHBAL. END SUMMARY.

1. CODEL ALBERT VISITED PERSEPOLIS APRIL 21 AND WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT LUNCH GIVEN BY FARS PROVINCE GOVERNOR ASSADOLLAH NASR-ISFAHANI. TOUR OF PERSEPOLIS WAS LED BY PERSEPOLIS RESTORATION PROJECT DIRECTOR SHABAZI AND LEADING IRANIAN HISTORIAN, DR. ABOLHASSAN DEHKAN OF PAHLAVI UNIVERSITY.

2. UPON ARRIVAL TEHRAN AFTERNOON APRIL 21, CODEL ALBERT WAS MET PERSONALLY BY OFFICIAL GOI HOST, MAJLES SPEAKER RIAZI, WHO GAVE DINNER SAME EVENING IN MAJLES BUILDING'S RECEPTION AREA. SPEAKER RIAZI GAVE SHORT SPEECH PREPARED BY MFA AND CLEARED BY GOI IN WHICH HE SAID ALBERT VISIT WAS SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS ON "FUTURE EXPANSION OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES." RIAZI ALSO REFERRED TO LONG HISTORY OF GOOD RELATIONS AND CORDIAL FEELINGS BETWEEN IRANIANS AND AMERICANS. SEVENTY-YEAR OLD RIAZI UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO VISIT BY ACCOMPANYING SPEAKER ALBERT FROM HOTEL TO AIRPORT AT 6:00AM APRIL 23, DESPITE ALBERT'S INSISTENCE THIS NOT NECESSARY.

3. ALBERT'S CALL ON PRIME MINISTER MORNING APRIL 22 WAS
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FEATURED ON IRANIAN TELEVISION THAT EVENING. HOVEYDA MADE

STANDARD PLEA THAT U.S. SHOULD REMAIN STRONG AND BE A FAITHFUL ALLY. HE SAID IRAN DID NOT NEED U.S. MANPOWER OR MONEY TO HELP KEEP PEACE IN GULF AREA, BUT DID NEED TO BE ABLE TO COUNT ON U.S. AS STEADY SOURCE OF SUPPLY. PRIME MINISTER REITERATED IRANIAN POSITION THAT GOI HAS NO WISH TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS BUT MUST DEVELOP ATOMIC ENERGY SOURCES TO REPLACE OIL. PAIR DISCUSSED LEGISLATIVE/EXECUTIVE RELATIONS WITHIN U.S. AND IRANIAN SYSTEMS. DISCUSSIONS ON OIL AND ENERGY WITH NIOC'S EGHBAL WERE ROUTINE, BUT IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, EGHBAL STATED IRAN'S KNOWN RESERVES WERE 70 BILLION BARRELS, FIRST TIME GOI HAS USED SPECIFIC FIGURE.

4. AMBASSADOR HOSTED LUNCH FOR SPEAKER APRIL 22 AT WHICH CODEL EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH LEADING IRANIANS ON GENERAL PHILOSOPHY OF MILITARY SECURITY AND AMERICAN POLITICS. UPON DEPARTING FROM THE LUNCH, MFA UNDERSECRETARY NASSIR ASSAR ALSO EXPRESSED TO SPEAKER ALBERT GOI'S DESIRE FOR CLOSER TIES TO U.S. LEGISLATIVE BODIES.
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